

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 06438 051428Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 051318Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2367

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T TEHRAN 6438

EXDIS

BEIRUT PLEASE PASS TO BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1

TAGS: PFOR, IR, EG, SA, IZ

SUBJ: SHAH ON PERSIAN GULF RELATIONSHIPS

REFS: (A) TEHRAN 4087 (NOTAL)

(B) TEHRAN 4088 (NOTAL)

(C) TEHRAN 4143

1. DURING AUDIENCE MORNING JULY 5, SHAH SPOKE ABOUT PERSIAN GULF SECURITY RELATIONSHIPS IN CONTEXT OF CHROWN PRINCE FAHD'S RECENTLY CONCLUDED VISIT HERE.

2. SHAH PROPOSED TO CROWN PRINCE FAHD THAT ALL THE LITTORAL STATES OF THE PERSIAN GULF ENTER INTO A SECURITY TREATY TO PROTECT THIS WATERWAY. HIS PROPOSAL WAS THAT EACH AND EVERY STATE CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING TO THIS COMMON EFFORT. ("EVEN DUBAI SHOULD MAKE A CONTRIBUTION.") ASKED WHAT THE SAUDI REACTION TO THIS PROPOSITION WAS, THE SHAH REPLIED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED NONE DURING THIS VISIT. HE FURTHER STATED THAT HE HAD TOLD THE SAUDIS THAT IF THIS KIND OF ARRANGEMENT WAS NOT SATISFACTORY TO THEM, HE (THE SHAH)

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SECRET

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 06438 051428Z

WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT WHATEVER ALTERNATIVE PLAN THEY MIGHT

WANT TO PROPOSE. HIS WHOLE POINT WAS, HE SAID, THAT THE LITTORAL STATES SHOULD COME TO THE RESCUE OF EACH OTHER IF ANY ONE WERE ATTACKED, EXTERNALLY OR INTERNALLY, AND THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF INSISTING THAT HE BE THE SOLE PROTECTOR OF THE AREA. HIS PROPOSAL ENVISAGES THAT THERE BE NO FOREIGN BASES AND NO FOREIGN POWERS IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

3. IN THE COURSE OF THIS EXPOSITION THE SHAH SAID THAT RECENTLY THE IRAQIS HAVE CHANGED THEIR POSITION FROM WHAT IT WAS WHEN IRAQI VICE PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN VISITED TEHRAN A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO (CF. REFTEL B). HE STATED THAT NOW THE IRAQIS ARE ONLY TALKING ABOUT THE NEED TO PROTECT SHIPPING IN THE PERSIAN GULF. THIS IS OBVIOUSLY QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THEIR EARLIER PROPOSAL FOR A COLLECTIVE SECURITY PACT. ASKED THE REASON HE BELIEVED THE IRAQIS HAD CHANGED POSITION, THE SHAH REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE OF PRESSURE FROM THE SSOVIET UNION. ACCORDING TO THE SHAH, EGYPTIAN PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ASHRAF MARWAN HAD BEEN TOLD BY SADDAM HUSSEIN THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAD PROTESTED TO THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE IRAN/IRAQ AGREEMENT THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO FOREIGN POWERS IN THE PERSIAN GULF. WHEN ASKED IF HE BELIEVED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ HAD REALLY KNUCKLED UNDER TO THE SOVIETS TO THIS EXTENT, HE REPLIED THAT HE HONESTLY DID NOT KNOW. HE OFFERED AN ALTERNATIVE EXPLANATION FOR THE IRAQI CHANGE OF HEART BY POINTING OUT THAT THE KUWAIT/IRAQ BORDER PROBLEMS HAD NOT BEEN SETTLED WHICH IN TURN WOULD MAKE KUWAIT/IRAQ RELATIONSHIPS DIFFICULT IN THE CONTEXT OF A PERSIAN GULF SECURITY PACT.

4. THE SHAH STATED THAT THIS WHOLE MATTE OF A PERSIAN GULF SECURITY TREATY WILL BE FULLY EXPOSED DURING THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AT JIDDA IN MID-JULY. HE SAID THAT HIS REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO OFFER THE SAME PROPOSAL THAT HAD BEEN OFFERED TO CROWN PRINCE FAHD THIS WEEK. THE SHAH COMMENTED, "THUS, DURING THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE WE WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE WHAT THE POSITION OF THE VARIOUS CONTRIES IS. THIS SHOULD HELP TO CLARIFY PARTICULARLY WHAT THE IRAQIS ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, COLLECTIVE SECURITY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TEHRAN06438
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750233-0179
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750782/aaaacvjm.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 TEHRAN 4087
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHAH ON PERSIAN GULF RELATIONSHIPS
TAGS: PFOR, IR, EG, SA, IZ, (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMAD REZA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006